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## SENSITIVE

FERRITATION

#### FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

# 2017 JAN 17 AM II: 31 FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

2017 JUN 17 JM 10: 57

MUR: 6990

COMPLAINT FILED: December 4, 2016 FLA DATE OF NOTIFICATION: December 11, 2015

LAST RESPONSE: February 3, 2016 DATE ACTIVATED: October 20, 2016

ELECTION CYCLE: 2014 Earliest SOL: February 19, 2018 Latest SOL: June 26, 2018

#### **COMPLAINANT:**

Douglas D. Head

#### RESPONDENTS:

Friends of Patrick Murphy and Brian Foucart in his official capacity as treasurer Ami Bera for Congress and Jennifer May in her official capacity as treasurer Kevin Strouse for Congress and Robert Fader in his official capacity as treasurer Thomas P. Murphy, Jr. Leslie Murphy Babulal Bera Robert Strouse

MUR: 7079

DATE COMPLAINT FILED: June 6, 2016 DATE OF NOTIFICATION: June 13, 2016;

July 19, 2016

LAST RESPONSE: August 2, 2016 DATE ACTIVATED: October 20, 2016

ELECTION CYCLE: 2010; 2012; 2014; 2016

Earliest SOL: December 31, 2014

Latest SOL: April 9, 2020

#### **COMPLAINANT:**

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust

#### **RESPONDENTS:**

Ami Bera for Congress and Jennifer May
in her official capacity as treasurer
Bat
DelBene for Congress and Jay Patterson
in his official capacity as treasurer
Eggman for Congress and Jay Petterson
in his official capacity as treasurer
Stacey Lawson for Congress and Kevin Heneghan
in his in his official capacity
Jon

Amerish "Ami" Bera
Babulal Bera
Kanta Bera
Janine Bera
Suzan DelBene
Michael Eggman
Stacey Lawson
Jon Hulburd

MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 2 of 16

**COMPLAINANT:** 

			•
1	Hulburd for Congress and David Beck	ham	Patrick Murphy
2	in his official capacity as treasurer		
3 ·	Friends of Patrick Murphy and Brian I	Foucart	Leslie Murphy
4	in his official capacity as treasurer		Scott Peters
5	Scott Peters for Congress and Nichola	s R. Femia	Lynn Gorguze
6	in his official in his official capacity a	is treasurer	Gloria Gorguze
7	Sangisetty for Congress LLC and Kur		Koti Sangisetty
8	in his official capacity		Aruna Sangisetty
9	Friends of Steve Pougnet and Kinde D	urkee	Ravi Sangisetty
10	in her official capacity as treasurer		Stephen P. Pougnet
11	Kevin Strouse for Congress and Ronal	ld Fader	Kevin Strouse
12	in his official capacity as treasurer		Robert Strouse
13	Dan Roberti for Congress and Daniel	McClutchy	Daniel Francis Roberti
14	in his official capacity as treasurer	•	Dina Titus
15	Dr. Raul Ruiz for Congress and John I	Pinkney	Dr. Raul Ruiz
16	in his official capacity as treasurer	•	Loretta Sanchez
17	Titus for Congress and Jennifer May		Manan Trevidi
18	in her official capacity as treasurer		
19	Trivedi for Congress and Bret Binder		
20 .	in his official capacity as treasurer		•
21	Committee to Re-elect Loretta Sanche	z and Katharine Mey	ver Borst
22	in her official capacity as treasurer <sup>1</sup>	·	
23	•		
24	1	MUR: 7121	
25		COMPLAINT FILEI	D: August 8, 2016
26	I	DATE OF NOTIFIC	ATION: August 15, 2016
27	I	LAST RESPONSE:	October 11, 2016
28	I	DATE ACTIVATED	: December 12, 2016
29			
30		ELECTION CYCLE	: 2014
31	· I	EARLIEST SOL: Ju	ne 20, 2018
32	I	LASTED SOL: June	30, 2018
33			

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust

Several of these political committees terminated before the Complaints were filed in these matters. Where ongoing committees have designated new treasurers, we have substituted those names.

MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 3 of 16

#### **RESPONDENTS:**

Eggman for Congress and Jay Petterson in his official and individual capacity as treasurer Ami Bera for Congress and Jennifer May in her official capacity as treasurer

Michael Eggman Babulal Bera

RELEVANT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS:

52 U.S.C. § 30102(e)(3)(B) 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(2) 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a) 52 U.S.C. § 30116(f) 52 U.S.C. § 30122 11 C.F.R. § 103.3(b) 11 C.F.R. § 104.14(d) 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b)

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INTERNAL REPORTS CHECKED:

Disclosure Reports

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FEDERAL AGENCIES CHECKED:

None

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The Complainants in MURs 6990, 7079, and 7121 allege that a number of congressional candidates, their campaign committees, and family members violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"), and Commission regulations by participating in schemes to make contributions in the names of others for the purpose of evading the Act's individual contribution limits.<sup>2</sup>

MURs 6990 and 7079 involve allegations that the Respondents engaged in a series of "donor swap" schemes.<sup>3</sup> The Complaint in MUR 6990 alleges that, during the 2014 election cycle, Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., and Leslie Murphy, the parents of congressional candidate Patrick Murphy, participated in a donor-swapping scheme with the parents of two other congressional

MUR 6990 Compl. at 1; MUR-7079 Compl. at 1, 3; MUR 7121 Compl. at 1-2.

<sup>3</sup> MUR 6990 Compl. at 1; MUR 7079 Compl. at 1, 3.

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 4 of 16

1 candidates in which the elder Mr. Murphy reimbursed another parent's contribution to his son's

2 campaign and Leslie Murphy permitted her name to be used to make a contribution in the name

of another.<sup>4</sup> The Complaint in MUR 7079 alleges that, between 2009 and 2015, congressional

candidate Amerish "Ami" Bera, along with his wife and parents, orchestrated a similar donor-

swapping scheme involving the reimbursement of contributions made by fourteen other

congressional candidates and their families.<sup>5</sup> Finally, MUR 7121 involves an allegation that, in

June 2013, congressional candidate Michael Eggman and his principal campaign committee,

Eggman for Congress, participated in a "straw donor scheme" involving the reimbursement of

one contribution by Babulal Bera.<sup>6</sup>

The record evidence, however, does not support a finding that any of the Respondents in these three MURs made contributions in the names of others by reimbursing the contributions identified in the Complaints.<sup>7</sup> Accordingly; we recommend that the Commission find no reason to believe as to all Respondents and close the files in these matters.

MUR 6990 Compl. at 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> MUR 7079 Compl. at 1.

<sup>6</sup> MUR 7121 Compl. at 1-3.

While the Complaint in MUR 7079 alleges that fourteen candidates, their families, and campaign committees participated in this scheme with members of the Bera family, it provides examples of only four of these donor swaps. A review of the candidate committees' disclosure reports provided information regarding contributions made by all fourteen candidates, their families, or campaign committees to the Bera Committee and Bera family contributions to the fourteen campaign committees. And, although most of the contributions at issue in MURs 6990, 7079, and 7121 were made by individuals, two were made by committees, Eggman for Congress and Dr. Raul Ruiz for Congress. Contributions that match the activity described in the Complaints are included in the Table attached to this Report. See Attachment 1.

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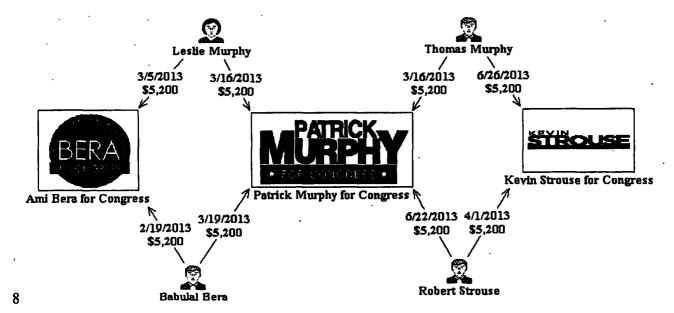
MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 5 of 16

#### II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

#### A. Background

#### 1. MUR 6990

- 4 MUR 6990 involves contributions by Leslie Murphy and Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., the
- 5 parents of candidate Patrick Murphy; contributions by Robert Strouse, the father of candidate
- 6 Kevin Strouse; and contributions by Babulal Bera, the father of candidate Ami Bera, as shown
- 7 in the diagram below.9



Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Strouse, and Mr. Bera had each contributed the \$5,200 maximum to their children's principal campaign committees for the 2014 primary and general elections.<sup>10</sup> According to the Complaint, the purpose of the scheme was to evade the Act's

See MUR 6990 Compl. at 1-2.

See also Attachment 1.

See 52 U.S.C. § 30116(a)(1)(A). During the 2014 election cycle, the maximum individual contribution was \$2,600 per election.

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 6 of 16

- individual contribution limits. 11 On March 5, 2013, Leslie Murphy contributed \$5,200 to Ami
- 2 Bera's principal campaign committee, Ami Bera for Congress ("Bera Committee"). 12 The
- 3 Complaint alleges that, two weeks later, Babulal Bera reimbursed this contribution by making
- 4 two \$2,600 contributions to Patrick Murphy's principal campaign committee, Friends of Patrick
- 5 Murphy ("Murphy Committee").<sup>13</sup> Similarly, according to the Complaint, Robert Strouse
- 6 contributed a total of \$5,200 to the Murphy Committee on June 22, 2013, and, just four days
- 7 later, was reimbursed by Thomas P. Murphy, Jr.'s two \$2,600 contributions to Kevin Strouse for
- 8 Congress ("Strouse Committee"). 14 These actions led the Complainant to conclude that Leslie
- 9 Murphy permitted her name to be used to make a contribution in the name of another and
- 10 Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., made a contribution in the name of another in violation of 52 U.S.C.
- 11 § 30122 and 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b). 15

Respondents deny the allegations and assert that the Complaint fails to present any facts

demonstrating that they participated in an unlawful "scheme" involving the reimbursement of

contributions. 16 According to the Responses, the Murphys, Babulal Bera, and Robert Strouse

independently made legal and direct contributions to the candidate committees at issue, actions

that were entirely consistent with their longstanding history of contributing to federal political

MUR 6990 Compl. at 1.

<sup>12</sup> Id. at 2, Ex. D.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* Ex. A.

<sup>14</sup> Id. at 1, Exs. B and C.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 1-2.

Murphy Committee, Leslie and Thomas P. Murphy, Jr. Resp. ("Joint Murphy Resp.") at 1-2; Bera Committee Resp. at 1; Bera Resp. at 1-2; Strouse Resp. at 1-2.

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 7 of 16

- 1 committees.<sup>17</sup> The Responses also argue that the Commission has previously determined that
- 2 series of direct contributions, such as those presented in this matter, are lawful as they do not
- 3 involve the reimbursement of funds used to make the contributions. 18

#### 2. MUR 7079

According to the Complaint in MUR 7079, candidate Ami Bera, his wife, Janine Bera, and his parents, Babulal and Kanta Bera, engaged in a "shell game" during the 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 election cycles in which they improperly reimbursed contributions totaling over \$200,000 by swapping contributions with a "network" of fourteen other congressional candidates, their families, and campaign committees for the purpose of magnifying the value of the participants' contributions "beyond lawful contribution limits." This scheme allegedly involved the Beras directing the "network" to make contributions to the Bera Committee in

exchange for members of the Bera family contributing to the fourteen congressional

Joint Murphy Resp. at 1; Bera Resp. at 1-2; Strouse Resp. at 1.

Joint Murphy Resp. at 1-3; Bera Resp. at 3; Bera Committee Resp. at 2; Strouse Resp. at 2.

MUR 7079 Compl. at 1-2. According to the Complaint, the "complex family shell game" described in MUR 7079 is similar to the reimbursement scheme for which Babulal Bera pleaded guilty and was sentenced to serve a year and a day in prison. *Id.* at 1; see also Judgment, United States v. Babulal Bera, No. 2:16-cr-00097 (E.D. Cal. Aug. 18, 2016). In that criminal matter, Babulal Bera admitted that he violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a)(1)(A) and 30122 by reimbursing over 130 contributions made to the Bera Committee using personal and company funds. See Criminal Information, United States v. Babulal Bera, Crim. No. 5-16-0097 (E.D. Cal. filed May 9, 2016); Plea Agreement, Ex. A, Factual Basis for Plea, United States v. Babulal Bera, Crim. No. 5-16-0097 (E.D. Cal. filed May 10, 2016). In MUR 7072, which related to the reimbursement scheme at issue in the criminal case, in light of Babulal Bera's sentencing in the criminal matter, his advanced age, and the fact that most of the activity was beyond the statute of limitations, the Commission dismissed the matter and admonished Babulal Bera. See Babulal Bera Factual and Legal Analysis, MUR 7072; Commission Certification, MUR 7072 (Babulal Bera, et al.) (Dec. 9, 2016). The available information, however, does not indicate that any of the contributions at issue in MURs 6990, 7079 or 7121 were part of the criminal activity at issue in MUR 7072.

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 8 of 16

- 1 candidates.<sup>20</sup> The Complaint asserts that the Bera family unlawfully reimbursed the network's
- 2 contributions by making "substantially equivalent contributions" to the participating
- 3 congressional candidates.<sup>21</sup>
- The Respondents deny the allegations for many of the same reasons asserted by the
- 5 Respondents in MUR 6990: the Complainant fails to present any facts demonstrating that they
- 6 were involved in an unlawful scheme involving the reimbursement of contributions, and the
- 7 Commission has previously determined that the donor activity as described in the Complaint is
- 8 permissible.<sup>22</sup> Several of the Respondents also note that the five-year statute of limitations
- 9 ("SOL") has expired for some of the violations alleged in the Complaint.<sup>23</sup>

#### 3. MUR 7121

The Complaint in MUR 7121 alleges that candidate Michael Eggman knowingly

participated in a scheme with the Bera family and the Bera Committee to assist Babulal Bera in

MUR 7079 Compl. at 2-3. The candidates are Suzan DelBene, Michael Eggman, Jon Hulburd, Stacey Lawson, Patrick Murphy, Scott Peters, Steve Pougnet, Dan Roberti, Dr. Raul Ruiz, Loretta Sanchez, Ravi Sangisetty, Kevin Strouse, Dina Titus, and Manan Trevidi.

MUR 7079 Compl. at 3-4. See Attachment 1. Specific examples of this alleged scheme provided in the Complaint involve contributions from candidate Ravi Sangisetty's parents, Aruna and Koti Sangisetty, in 2010; contributions from candidate Patrick Murphy's father, Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., in 2011; contributions from candidate Scott Peters, his wife and his mother-in-law in 2012; and, contributions from candidate Patrick Murphy's mother, Leslie Murphy, in 2013. See Compl. at 4-6; supra n.7.

See Loretta Sanchez, Committee to Re-elect Loretta Sanchez Resp. at 1-3; Sangisetty for Congress LLC Resp. at 1-2; Koti, Aruna and Ravi Sangisetty Resp. at 1-2; Michael Eggman, Eggman for Congress Resp. at 2; Ami and Janine Bera, Bera Committee Joint Resp. at 2.; Babulal and Kanta Bera Resp. at 2; Scott Peters, Scott Peters for Congress, Lynn Gorguze, Gloria Gorguze Joint Resp. at 1; Suzan DelBene, DelBene for Congress, Patrick Murphy, Murphy Committee, Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., Leslie Murphy, Raul Ruiz, Dr. Paul Ruiz for Congress, Kevin Strouse; Dina Titus, Titus for Congress, Dan Roberti, Dan Roberti for Congress Joint Resp. at 1-4.

Sangisetty for Congress LLC Resp. at 2; Koti, Aruna and Ravi Sangisetty Resp. at 2. As of the date of this report, the activity from 2009, 2010 and 2011 was beyond the SOL, representing approximately 35% of the overall amount at issue in MUR 7079.

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 9 of 16

- evading the Act's individual contribution limits.<sup>24</sup> According to the Complaint, in June 2013,
- 2 Michael Eggman directed Eggman for Congress to make a \$1,000 contribution to the Bera
- 3 Committee and ten days later, Babulal Bera contributed \$1,000 to Eggman for Congress.<sup>25</sup>
- 4 Based on the close timing of the two contributions and the fact that Eggman for Congress never
- 5 contributed to another candidate committee, the Complainant in MUR 7121 contends that the
- 6 Respondents entered into an agreement to have Eggman for Congress' contribution to the Bera
- 7 Committee reimbursed by Babulal Bera.<sup>26</sup> The Complaint further alleges that Eggman and
- 8 Eggman for Congress knowingly accepted an illegal reimbursed contribution, and consequently
- 9 filed inaccurate disclosure reports with the Commission.<sup>27</sup>

The Respondents deny the allegations for many of the same reasons asserted by the Respondents in MURs 6990 and 7079: the Complainant fails to present any facts demonstrating that they were involved in an unlawful scheme involving the reimbursement of contributions and the Commission has previously determined that the donor activity as described in the Complaint

is permissible.<sup>28</sup>

MUR 7121 Compl. at 2-4. Like the Complaint in MUR 7079, the MUR 7121 Complaint references Babulal Bera's conviction for reimbursing federal contributions and asserts that Eggman and his campaign committee, Eggman for Congress, "were integral" in that "illegal straw donor scheme." *Id.* at 1; see supra n.19.

<sup>25</sup> Id. at 2-3. See Attachment 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> MUR 7121 Compl. at 1-4.

<sup>27</sup> Id. at 3-4.

See Michael Eggman and Eggman for Congress Joint Resp. at 2, 4-5, Attachment A (M. Eggman Declaration, Oct. 4, 2016); Babulal Bera Resp. at 1-2; Ami Bera and Bera Committee Joint Resp. at 2-3.

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 10 of 16

#### B. Legal Analysis

The Act limits how much an individual can contribute to a federal candidate and his or her principal campaign committee.<sup>29</sup> The Act and Commission regulations provide that no person shall make a contribution in the name of another person or knowingly permit his or her name to be used to effect such a contribution.<sup>30</sup> In addition, "no person shall . . . knowingly help or assist any person in making a contribution in the name of another."<sup>31</sup> Candidates, their committees, and their agents are also prohibited from knowingly accepting contributions that exceed the Act's limits and contributions made in the name of another.<sup>32</sup> Finally, candidate committees are required to file reports of receipts and disbursements in accordance with the Act and Commission regulations.<sup>33</sup>

As argued in the Responses, the available information does not support the Complainants' allegations that the contributions identified in the Complaints constitute contributions in the name of another. The Complaint in MUR 6990 identifies contributions made by four parents to each other's adult children, but does not provide any information —

<sup>52</sup> U.S.C. § 30116(a). During the 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 election cycles, an individual could contribute a maximum of \$2,400, \$2,500, \$2,600 and \$2,700, respectively, to a candidate per election. The Act permits an authorized committee to contribute up to \$2,000 to the authorized committee of another candidate. 52 U.S.C. § 30102(e)(3)(B).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 30122; 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b)(1)(i), (ii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> See 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b)(1)(iii).

See 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) and 30122; 11 C.F.R. §§ 110.4(b)(1)(iv). Commission regulations also require treasurers of political committees to examine all contributions for evidence of illegality. Should a treasurer determine that a contribution is illegal, including that a contribution was made in the name of another, the treasurer shall refund the contribution to the contributor within 30 days of the date on which the illegality was discovered. 11 C.F.R. § 103.3(b).

<sup>33</sup> See 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(2); 11 C.F.R. § 104.14(d) (each treasurer of a political committee shall be responsible for the timely, complete and accurate filing of disclosure reports.)

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 11 of 16

indeed, does not even specifically allege - that the funds were not the personal funds of the 1 2 named contributors. The Complaint in MUR 7079, which asserts that fourteen congressional 3 candidates, their families, and campaign committees participated with the Beras in the alleged 4 scheme, specifically describes a series of contributions made by four of those candidates and 5 their relatives, including parents, spouses, siblings, and an in-law, but does not provide any 6 information that these contributions were not made with the personal funds of the named contributors. Similarly, the Complaint in MUR 7121 presents no information that Eggman for 7 8 Congress did not use its own funds to contribute to the Bera Committee or that Babulal Bera's contribution to Eggman for Congress was not made with his personal funds.<sup>34</sup> 9

Moreover, the Commission has previously determined that trading contributions in the manner described in these three complaints does not violate the Act so long as contributors used their own funds to make their contributions. See MUR 4783 (Brian Babin for Congress, et al.) (Commission found that contributions made by Peter Cloeren, a "maxed-out" supporter of candidate Brian Babin, to the Re-elect Thurmond Committee and the Gill Committee campaigns based on an express understanding that donors to those other committees would in turn contribute to Babin's campaign did not violate the Act because Cloeren did not actually

Accordingly, the available information does not indicate any reporting violations on the part of Eggman for Congress or its treasurer in his official and individual capacity.

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- 1 reimburse the other donors' contributions).<sup>35</sup>
- Accordingly, we recommend that the Commission find no reason to believe that the
- 3 Respondents named in MURs 6990, 7079 and 7121 violated 52 U.S.C §§ 30102(e)(3)(B), 30104,
- 4 30116(a), 30116(f), or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b). We further recommend that the
- 5 Commission close the files.

#### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Find no reason to believe that Thomas P. Murphy, Jr. violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 2. Find no reason to believe that Leslie Murphy violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 3. Find no reason to believe that Patrick Murphy violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 4. Find no reason to believe that Friends of Patrick Murphy and Brian Foucart in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 5. Find no reason to believe that Robert Strouse violated 52 U.S.C §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 6. Find no reason to believe that Kevin Strouse violated 52 U.S.C §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 7. Find no reason to believe that Kevin Strouse for Congress and Robert Fader in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);

First Gen. Counsel's Rpt. at 29-31, MUR 4783 (Brian Babin, et al.); Commission Certification, MUR 4783 (Brian Babin, et al.) (July 22, 1999). See also Advisory Op. 1996-33 (Colantuono). In that opinion, the Commission determined that a state legislator's proposal to contribute surplus state funds to several other state legislative candidate committees and then solicit these same committees for roughly equivalent contributions to his federal committee was impermissible because the arrangement would result in the requester replenishing, in advance or afterward, the contributions to his federal committee. However, the Commission opined that it would be permissible, subject to certain conditions, for the requestor to contribute to other state legislative committees and then solicit these state legislators for contributions from personal funds as that scenario would not involve reimbursing contributions.

MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.) MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.) MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.) First General Counsel's Report Page 13 of 16

- 8. Find no reason to believe that Babulal Bera violated 52 U.S.C §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 9. Find no reason to believe that Kanta Bera violated 52 U.S.C §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 10. Find no reason to believe that Amerish "Ami" Bera violated 52 U.S.C §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 11. Find no reason to believe that Janine Bera violated 52 U.S.C §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 12. Find no reason to believe that Ami Bera for Congress and Jennifer May in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 13. Find no reason to believe that Suzan DelBene violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 14. Find no reason to believe that DelBene for Congress and Jay Patterson in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 15. Find no reason to believe that Michael Eggman violated 52 U.S.C. § 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 16. Find no reason to believe that Eggman for Congress and Jay Petterson in his official and individual capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30102(e)(3)(B), 30104, 30116(f), or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 17. Find no reason to believe that Stacey Lawson violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 18. Find no reason to believe that Stacey Lawson for Congress and Kevin Heneghan in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 19. Find no reason to believe that Jon Hulburd violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 20. Find no reason to believe that Hulburd for Congress and David Beckham in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.)
MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.)
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- Find no reason to believe that Scott Peters violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 22. Find no reason to believe that Scott Peters for Congress and Nicholas R. Femia in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 23. Find no reason to believe that Lynn Gorguze violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 24. Find no reason to believe that Gloria Gorguze violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 25. Find no reason to believe that Daniel Francis Roberti violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 26. Find no reason to believe that Dan Roberti for Congress and Daniel McClutchy in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 27. Find no reason to believe that Dr. Raul Ruiz violated 52 U.S.C. § 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 28. Find no reason to believe that Dr. Raul Ruiz for Congress and John Pinkney in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30102(e)(3)(B), 30116(f), or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 29. Find no reason to believe that Dina Titus violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 30. Find no reason to believe that Dina Titus for Congress and Jennifer May in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- Find no reason to believe that Manan Trivedi violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- Find no reason to believe that Trivedi for Congress and Bret Binder in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 33. Find no reason to believe that Loretta Sanchez violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);

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MUR 6990 (Thomas P. Murphy, Jr., et al.)
MUR 7079 (Amerish "Ami" Bera, et al.)
MUR 7121 (Michael Eggman, et al.)
First General Counsel's Report
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- Find no reason to believe that the Committee to Re-elect Loretta Sanchez and Katharine Meyer Borst in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
  Find no reason to believe that Ravi Sangisetty violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or
- 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 36. Find no reason to believe that Koti Sangisetty violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 37. Find no reason to believe that Aruna Sangisetty violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 38. Find no reason to believe that Sangisetty for Congress LLC and Kurt Fakier in his official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 39. Find no reason to believe that Stephen P. Pougnet violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 40. Find no reason to believe that Friends of Steve Pougnet and Kinde Durkee in her official capacity as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(f) or 30122 or 11 C.F.R. § 110.4(b);
- 41. Approve the attached Factual and Legal Analyses;
- 42. Approve the appropriate letters; and
- 43. Close the files.

Lisa J. Stevenson Acting General Counsel

Kathleen M. Guith Acting Associate General Counsel

1.17.17

Stephen Gura

Deputy Associate General Counsel for Enforcement

Work all

Mark Allen

**Assistant General Counsel** 

Marianne Abely

Attorney

Attachments:

1. Table of Contributions

### Contribution Table - MURs 6990, 7079 & 7121

2009 Contributions			
Date	Contributor	Recipient Committee	Amount
12/31/2009	Stephen P. Pougnet	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,400 (Primary) \$2,400 (General)
12/31/2009	Janine Bera	Friends of Steve Pougnet	\$2,400 (P) \$2,400 (G)

2010 Contributions			
Date	Contributor	Recipient Committee	Amount
3/29/2010	Aruna Sangisetty	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
			\$2,400 (G)
3/29/2010	Koti Sangisetty	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
			\$2,400 (G)
3/29/2010	Babulal Bera!	Sangisetty for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
			\$2,400 (G)
3/29/2010	Kanta Bera	Sangisetty for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
·		<u> </u>	\$2,400 (G)
6/6/2010	Carrie Hulburd	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
0/0/2010	Carrie Hulburg	Ann Bela for Congress	\$2,400 (G)
6/6/2010	Jules Hulburd	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
0/0/2010	Juics Hulburd	Allii Deta for Congress	\$2,400 (G)
6/7/2010	Clif Hulburd	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
0/ // 20 1 0		l	\$2,400 (G)
6/7/2010	Babulal Bera	Hulburd for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
<b>5.</b> 11. <b>25</b> 2 5			\$2,400 (G)
6/7/2010	Kanta Bera	Hulburd for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
			\$2,400 (G)
6/7/2010	Janine Bera	Hulbrand for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
·			\$2,400 (G)
6/29/2010	Amerish "Ami" Bera	Trivedi for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
0/29/2010	Amerisa Ami Dera	Tilvedi for Congress	\$2,400 (P) \$2,400 (G)
6/29/2010	Janine Bera	Trivedi for Congress	\$2,400 (P)
0/29/2010	Jannie Dela	Tilvedi for Collegess	\$2,400 (G)
6/30/2010	Maulik Trivedi	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,300 (G)
0/30/2010	IVIGUILA PITACOT	1 / IIII Dola for Congress	μω,σου (σ)

Amerish "Ami" Bera also made two \$2,400 contributions to Sangisetty for Congress on March 30, 2010.

Attachment 1

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2011 Contributions			1
Date	Contributor	Recipient Committee	Amount
6/28/2011	Vincent Roberti	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,500 (P)
·			\$2,500 (G)
6/30/2011	Vincent Roberti, Jr.	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,500 (P)
			\$2,500 (G)
6/30/2011	Janine Bera	Dan Roberti for	\$2,500 (P)
	_{	Congress	\$2,500 (G)
6/30/2011	Babulal Bera <sup>2</sup>	Dan Roberti for	\$2,500 (P)
	<del></del>	Congress	\$2,500 (G)
9/26/2011	Janine Bera	Friends of Patrick	\$2,300 (P)
		Murphy	\$2,300 (G)
9/29/2011	Patrick Murphy	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,300 (P)
			\$2,300 (G)

Contributor	Recipient Committee	Amount
Amerish "Ami" Bera	DelBene for Congress	\$2,500 (P)
		\$2,500 (G)
Janine Bera	DelBene for Congress	\$2,500 (P)
		\$2,500 (G)
Suzan DelBene	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,500 (P)
		\$2,500 (G)
Kurt DelBene	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,500 (P)
		\$2,500 (G)
Stacey Lawson	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,500 (P)
		\$2,500 (G)
Janine Bera <sup>3</sup>	Stacey Lawson for	\$2,500 (P)
	Congress	\$2,500 (G)
Amerish "Ami" Bera	Scott Peters for	\$2,500 (P)
	Congress	\$2,500 (G)
Lynn Gorguze	Ami Bera for Congres	\$2,500 (G)
	Amerish "Ami" Bera  Janine Bera  Suzan DelBene  Kurt DelBene  Stacey Lawson  Janine Bera <sup>3</sup> Amerish "Ami" Bera	Amerish "Ami" Bera  DelBene for Congress  DelBene for Congress  Suzan DelBene  Ami Bera for Congress  Kurt DelBene  Ami Bera for Congress  Stacey Lawson  Ami Bera for Congress  Stacey Lawson for Congress  Amerish "Ami" Bera  Scott Peters for Congress

Babulal Bera's wife, Kanta Bera, also made two \$2,500 contributions to the Dan Roberti for Congress committee on June 30, 2011.

Amerish "Ami" Bera's father, Babulal Bera, contributed a total of \$5,000 to Stacey Lawson for Congress on March 29, 2012.

6/25/2012	Scott Peters	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,500 (P) \$2,500 (G)
	<del> </del>		\$2,500 (d)
2013 Contributions			<u> </u>
Date	Contributor	Recipient Committee	Amount
3/5/2013	Leslie Murphy	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
3/19/2013	Babulal Bera	Friends of Patrick Murphy	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
3/19/2013	Kanta Bera	Friends of Patrick Murphy	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/22/2013	Robert Strouse	Friends of Patrick Murphy	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/26/2013	Thomas P. Murphy, Jr.	Kevin Strouse for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/20/2013	Eggman for Congress	Ami Bera for Congress	\$1,000 (P)
6/30/2013	Babulal Bera	Eggman for Congress	\$1,000 (P)
6/28/2013	Norma Strouse	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/28/2013	Robert Strouse	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/30/2013	Babulal Bera	Kevin Strouse for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/30/2013	Kanta Bera	Kevin Strouse for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/30/2013	Gloria Gorguze	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/30/2013	Vincent Gorguze	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/30/2013	Babulal Bera	Scott Peters for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)
6/30/2013	Kanta Bera	Scott Peters for Congress	\$2,600 (P) \$2,600 (G)

2014 Contributions			
Date	Contributor	Recipient Committee	Amount
6/30/2014	Rajesh Bera	Dr. Raul Ruiz for Congress	\$1,000 (P)
6/30/2014	Rimal Bera	Dr. Raul Ruiz for Congress	\$2,500 (P)
10/28/2014	Dr. Raul Ruiz for Congress	Ami Bera for Congress	\$2,000 (G)

2015 Contributions		•	
Date	Contributor	Recipient Committee	Amount
3/31/2015	Babulal Bera	Scott Peters for	\$2,700 (P)
		Congress	\$2,700 (G)
3/31/2015	Kanta Bera	Scott Peters for	\$2,700 (P)
		Congress	\$2,700 (G)
4/9/2015	Lynn Gorguze	Ami Bera for	\$2,700 (P)
		Congress	\$2,700 (G)
4/9/2015	Gloria Gorguze	Ami Bera for	\$2,700 (P)
		Congress	\$2,700 (G)